

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /075 W
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R 242100Z MAR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0726
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2295

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR OVIP BR KS
SUBJECT: VISIT TO BRAZIL OF FORMER ROK PRIME MINISTER

REF: SEOUL 1130

1. SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA MARCH 17, HIGH-LEVEL KOREAN EMISSARY KIM DISCUSSED ROK POSITION ON REUNIFICATION, SOUGHT CLOSER ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES WITH BRAZIL AND APOLOGIZED FOR PAST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OF KOREANS TO BRAZIL. REPORTEDLY, AT NO TIME DID KIM MAKE DIRECT APPEAL FOR BRAZILIAN SUPPORT IN UN. END SUMMARY.

2. KIM CHONG-PIL DESCRIBED BY PRESS AS SPECIAL ENVOY OF
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ROK PRESIDENT, HAD TALKS OF MORE THAN ONE HOUR MARCH 17 JOINTLY WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT KIM HAD GIVEN GEISEL A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PAK BUT DID NOT REPORT ITS CONTENTS.

3. KOREAN EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR GAVE EMBOFF

FOLLOWING RUN DOWN ON KIM'S TALKS WITH PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER, IN WHICH HE SAID KOREANS DID 80 PERCENT OF THE TALKING. KIM BRIEFED GEISEL AND SILVEIRA ON THE ROK VIEW OF THE STRATEGIC SITUATION IN AND AROUND THE KOREAN PENINSULA. KIM EXPLAINED THE ROK POSITION OF UNIFICATION, STRESSING UN IS NOT TYPE OF ORGANIZATION THAT CAN DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH SUCH A QUESTION, FOR WHICH REASON ROK PREFERS TO KEEP ISSUE OUT OF UN FORUM. KIM ALSO SPENT SOME TIME DISCUSSING THE UNREASONABLENESS OF PYONGYANG'S POSITION. GEISEL COMMENTED HERE THAT DPRK IS ONLY ABLE TO MAINTAIN SUCH AN UNREASONABLE POSITION BECAUSE OF THE BACKING OF PRC AND USSR.

4. PRESIDENT GEISEL ALLUDED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA. KIM EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT PAK HAD ANNOUNCED HE DID NOT OPPOSE WITHDRAWAL IF THE DPRK WERE TO AGREE TO A NONAGGRESSION PACT. GEISEL EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT ROK THOUGHT THAT PYONGYANG WOULD HONOR SUCH A PACT. KIM EXPLAINED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT THE NORTH COULD NOT BE COUNTED ON TO HONOR THE PACT UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT SEOUL WANTED IT ANYHOW TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INTEREST IN PEACE. KIM ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE ARMISTICE NOW IN AFFECT RESTS ON AGREEMENT BETWEEN DPRK AND THE UN, MAKING IT NECESSARY FOR THE ROK TO HAVE A SEPARATE REPLACEMENT AGREEMENT TO ASSURE CONTINUATION OF THE ARMISTICE IF THE UN WERE WITHDRAWN.

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5. KIM MADE AN APPEAL FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES WITH BRAZIL, SUGGESTING FISHERIES COOPERATION. THE BRAZILIANS WERE REPORTEDLY LESS THEN ENTHUSIASTIC BECAUSE OF ILLEGAL KOREAN FISHING IN BRAZILIAN WATERS BUT SHOWED GREATER INTEREST WHEN KIM THREW OUT POSSIBILITIES OF JOINT VENTURES.

6. KIM ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF SENDING MORE KOREAN IMMIGRANTS TO BRAZIL. KIM APOLOGIZED TO PRESIDENT AND SILVEIRA FOR PAST ILLEGAL KOREAN IMMIGRATION TO BRAZIL, MUCH OF WHICH HE CLAIMED HAD COME THROUGH PARAGUAY. KIM SAID MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS HAD NEGLIGENTLY MADE POSSIBLE THIS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION BY SENDING IMMIGRANTS TO PARAGUAY, WHICH THEY KNEW WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVELY FOR THEM. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THE GOB WOULD RESUME THE IMMIGRATION PROGRAM SUSPENDED IN 1972. PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER MADE NO COMMITMENT ON THIS

SCORE BUT DISMISSED PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION WITH
COMMENT THAT "BRAZIL IS A BIG COUNTRY, A FEW HUNDRED MORE
WON'T MATTER."

7. POLITICAL COUNSELOR DESCRIBED KIM'S APPROACH AS
LOW KEY AND INDIRECT, NOTING THAT HE NEVER RAISED
QUESTION OF UNGA VOTE ON KOREA OR EXPLICITLY SOUGHT
BRAZILIAN SUPPORT FOR ROK POSITION. POLITICAL COUNSELOR
NOTED THIS CONTRASTED STRIKINGLY WITH APPROACH OF
ROK FOREIGN MINISTER DURING VISIT TO BRASILIA LAST
SUMMER, IN WHICH HE FORTHRIGHTLY ASKED FOREIGN
MINISTER SILVEIRA FOR HIS EXPLANATION OF BRAZIL'S
"ILLOGICAL" DECISION IN UNGA TO VOTE FOR FRIENDLY
RESOLUTION BUT ABSTAINED ON HOSTILE RESOLUTION.
SILVEIRA HAD REPLIED AT THAT TIME, HE STATED, THAT
FOREIGN RELATIONS ARE NOT ALWAYS CONDUCTED ON THE
BASIS OF LOGIC.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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